

Message Text

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SUBJ: CODEL JAVITS

1. FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS TO THE PRESS BY SENATOR JACOB JAVITS UPON ARRIVAL AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT, SUNDAY MARCH 26, 1978:
 2. Q: SENATOR JAVITS, ARE WE FACING A CRISIS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES?
 3. A: I HOPE NOT; THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON WERE DISCOURAGING BUT THERE'S NO CRISIS AS I SEE IT IN THE FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS REAFFIRMED THE HISTORIC AND PRESENT COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY AND SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT MILITARY SUPPLY OR ECONOMIC AID. WE HAVE APPARENTLY DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. IF ANYTHING, THIS IS A TRIBUTE TO THE DEMOCRACY OF BOTH COUNTRIES BUT NOTWITHSTANDING THE STRONG FEELING IN ISRAEL, IT HAS - OR SHOULD HAVE - NO DOUBTS ABOUT THE SUPPORT, AS ALWAYS, OF THE UNITED STATES.
 4. Q: SENATOR, HOW DO YOU THINK THE BRIDGE CAN BE GAPPED BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL?
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5. A: I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT WHAT THE SITUATION IS, WHAT PEOPLE THINK, WHAT THE DISPOSITION IS INsofar AS I CAN LEARN IT OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND I WILL HOPE TO BE USEFUL IN RESPECT TO RESTORING THE DIALOGUE AND HOPEFULLY LEADING TO A RENEWAL OF THE DIALOGUE WITH PRESIDENT SADAT.
6. Q: DO YOU FEEL AS DOES THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE ONLY WAY TO BRIDGE THE GAPS CAN BE GIVING INTO

AMERICAN DEMANDS?

7. A: I DON'T COME TO ISRAEL WITH PRECONCEPTIONS. I AM A U.S. SENATOR. I BELIEVE IN THE GOOD FAITH AND THE HONEST INTENTIONS OF MY COUNTRY, BUT IN MY COUNTRY AS IN THIS COUNTRY THERE ARE OFTEN SERIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT WHO IS IN OFFICE. I DO NOT WISH TO SAY THAT I HAVE SUCH SERIOUS DIFFERENCES WITH PRESIDENT CARTER NOW BUT I'M HERE TO ASCERTAIN POINTS OF VIEW AND IF IT DEVELOPS, I WILL NOT SHRINK FROM THEM; HOPEFULLY THAT DEVELOPMENT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

8. Q: SENATOR, A COLLEAGUE OF YOURS, SENATOR ROBERT PACKWOOD ARRIVED HERE FRIDAY STATING THAT HE WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED IN THE STAND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS TAKEN. HE FELT THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE MILITARY STRENGTH SO THAT IT CAN NEGOTIATE FROM A STAND OF EQUALITY. DO YOU SHARE THAT VIEW?

9. A: I RESPECT SENATOR PACKWOOD VERY MUCH. I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO ISSUE OF MILITARY STRENGTH HERE EXCEPT POSSIBLY AS TO HOW WE TREAT THE PROSPECTIVE REQUESTS BY THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE SALES OF SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND OF CERTAIN OTHER AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT. I BELIEVE THAT ULTIMATELY THOSE ISSUES WILL BE RESOLVED WITHOUT IN ANY WAY COMPROMISING ISRAEL'S SECURITY OR THE BALANCE OF MILITARY STRENGTH IN THIS AREA. I DO NOT WISH TO GIVE ANY DIRECT POINT OF DIFFERENCE OR LACK OF IT. WITH SENATOR PACKWOOD. HE IS A MOST RESPECTED SENATOR. WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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HE SAYS GOES FOR HIM. WHAT I SAY WILL GO FOR ME.

10. Q: FINALLY, SENATOR, THERE ARE MANY ASSESSMENTS THAT CLAIM THAT NOW THERE WILL BE A SERIES OF LEANINGS ON ISRAEL BY THE UNITED STATES. DO YOU ANTICIPATE THE SAME AND IF SO, WHAT STAND WILL YOU TAKE?

11. A: I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE LAID IT DOWN AS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT BE COERCED. HER SURVIVAL IS AT STAKE AND SHE IS ENTITLED TO DO WHATEVER SHE THINKS SHE HAS TO DO FOR HER OWN SECURITY AND HER OWN SURVIVAL. I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO SEE THAT ISRAEL IS NOT COERCED EITHER BY IMPLICATIONS OR THREATS OF DENIALS OF MILITARY MATERIAL OR ECONOMIC AID OR IN ANY OTHER WAY. WE'LL FIGHT THIS ONE OUT STRICTLY ON ITS MERITS.

12. Q: ... THE FIRST PART OF MY QUESTION WAS DO YOU SEE SUCH A THING HAPPENING?

13. A: I HOPE NOT. I CANNOT FORETELL WHETHER IT WILL OR WON'T. I DON'T THINK IT WILL. I DON'T THINK AMERICAN SENTIMENT WILL PERMIT IT. BUT ONE NEVER KNOWS IN THESE THINGS.

14. Q: THANK YOU VERY MUCH SENATOR.
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